

HARMONY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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"Living Together in Harmony"

MINUTES

HARMONY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

14 October 2003

Present: Karen Buckley, Harry Cosimano Abigail Crouse, Bill Rosebrock,, Tim Sullivan, Brett Bragin, Jim Wright (1st alternate) and Michael Hedlund (2nd alternate).

Absent: Dave Bruckman.

I. Opening:

Meeting opened in accordance with the Sunshine Law and Pledge of Allegiance at 1940 hours.

II. Minutes: The minutes of the September 2003 meeting were not available for review.

III. Correspondence:

A) A CD containing stormwater outreach materials was received from Jennifer Gurdak of the NJDEP.

B) Karen sent a letter to Binney & Smith thanking them for the box of crayons that they donated for Community Day.

C) Received an e-mail from Township resident Mark Harlos regarding his concern about additional air pollution that may result if the Dowel/Centex development is constructed, and asking if there is anything that the Environmental Commission could do about it.

D) Received a letter informing the Environmental Commission that a letter of interpretation (LOI) and General Permit #10 authorizing a driveway to be constructed on freshwater wetlands has been requested from the NJDEP for Block 11 lot 65 (Swamp Road).

E) Received a letter informing the Environmental Commission that a LOI requesting a determination of the presence/absence of wetlands has been requested from the NJDEP for Block 38 Lot 11 (73 acres at corner of Harmony Station Road and Garrison Road - a.k.a. Kimberly Estates).

IV. New Business:

A) Environmental Complaint Form – A form was distributed that is used in White Township for citizens to record complaints of an environmental nature. A discussion was held as to whether we should consider creating and offering Harmony Township residents a form like this in an attempt to keep track of environmental complaints (e.g., noise, odors, etc.) that are reported to the Warren County health Department, NJDEP, etc. Issues such as, if we create such a form, what type of "follow-up" would we obligate the Environmental Commission to, were discussed.

B) A copy of the October 2003 amendment to the Wastewater Management Plan for Harmony Township was handed out. Commission members were asked to review the amended plan and to bring any comments to the November meeting.

C) The expansion of the Warren County landfill in Oxford was discussed. The Warren County Pollution Control Financing Authority is seeking to expand the landfill by 1.5 million cubic yards, keeping it open until 2014.

V. Old Business:

A) Dowel/Centex Homes – EIS review. The review letter has not been drafted. Therefore, the Commission drafted a Resolution that rejects the Dowel/Centex EIS (see Resolution 2003-04). The Commission also drafted another Resolution that seeks to hire an independent environmental consultant to perform a new EIS, to be directed by Harmony Township and paid for by Dowel/Centex (see Resolution 2003-05).

B) Harmony Community Day - was held September 20th. We had approximately 20 people sign up for well water testing, and gave out some free information regarding watersheds, well testing, etc. Karen will provide the list of people who are interested in well testing to QC labs, and the lab will contact people to set up the first round of water collection.

C) Warren County Environmental Commission Dunlap Grant - We have not heard anything from the WCEC regarding the award of this grant yet.

D) Soil Testing Ordinance - The Environmental Commission drafted and unanimously passed Resolution 2003-06, to be presented to the Land Use Board with the hope that it will spur them into action regarding this matter.

E) Air Quality Committee - It does not appear that any of the Environmental Commission members have the time to sit on this committee.

F) Compilation of Environmental Issues in the Township – No new action to report at this time.

G) Biosolids Resolution - We did not send this Resolution to anyone. It was suggested that the Resolution be sent to the WCEC, Governor McGreevy and the NJ Conservation Federation.

H) National Park Service Wild & Scenic Grant - We were approved for this grant. Discussion was held regarding the hiring of Thonet Associates to assist us with the Natural Resources Inventory of the 2 miles of W & S Delaware River within Harmony Township. The Township Committee still needs to send a letter to NPS, accepting the grant. This has not been done yet due to complications related below.

I) Lower Delaware River Wild & Scenic Designation - The policy changes (amendments) submitted to the NPS were denied at the NPS September quarterly meeting. They were rejected because, as written, it would appear to apply to all 26 municipalities that have signed on to the W&S designation. The NPS suggested the amendment be revised again, so that it is clear that this amendment would only apply to Harmony Township.

There being no further business, the October meeting of the Harmony Township Environmental Commission was adjourned at 2155 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Brett Bragin, Secretary